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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

09/774,990

01/30/2001

Anna Pia Slothower

PALM-3559.US.P

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05/25/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JENNIFER T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2674

13

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/774,990

Applicant(s)

SLOTHOWER ET AL.

Examiner

Jennifer T Nguyen

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responsive to amendment filed 03/12/2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over prior art Fig. 1 (cited by Applicant) in view of Robsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,309).

Regarding claims 1, 9, and 16, the prior art Fig. 1 teaches a integrated enclosure/touch screen assembly comprising: a display mechanism (140); a digitizer mechanism comprising a top film (120) and a resistive digitizing element (130); a supporting structure (105) for supporting said display mechanism (140); and a cover (110) for the touch screen assembly that is disposed over and encloses said top film of the digitizer mechanism to allow mechanical transfer between the cover (110) and the digitizer mechanism, wherein the resistive digitizing element can be activated by mechanical pressure applied to the external surface of the cover (page 10, line 11 to page 11, line 10 in specification).

The prior art Fig. 1 differs from claims 1, 9, and 16 in that it does not specifically teach the cover is a single piece cover enclosure. However, referring to Figs. 1-10, Robsky teaches single piece cover enclosure (24) for a touch screen assembly that is disposed over and encloses a top film of the digitizer mechanism (28) to allow mechanical transfer between the single piece cover (24) and the digitizer mechanism (28) (col. 3, lines 17-40, col. 4, lines 13-67). Therefore, it

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would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the single piece cover enclosure for a touch screen assembly that is disposed over and encloses a top film of the digitizer mechanism to allow mechanical transfer between the single piece cover and the digitizer mechanism as taught by Robsky in the system of the prior art Fig. 1 in order to provide a moisture and dust free environment for the touch screen mechanism.

Regarding claims 2, 3, and 17, the combination of the prior art Fig. 1 and Robsky teaches a single piece cover enclosure is constructed using in mold decoration (col. 3, of Robsky, lines 17-40).

Regarding claims 4 and 11, the prior art Fig. 1 further teaches finger pressure on the external surface of said single piece cover enclosure can be used to activate said digitizer mechanism (page 10, line 11 to page 11, line 10 in specification).

Regarding claims 5 and 12, the combination of the prior art Fig. 1 and Robsky teaches wherein stylus pressure on the external surface of said single piece cover enclosure may be used to activate said digitizer mechanism (col. 1, lines 10-63 of Robsky).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of the prior art Fig. 1 and Robsky teaches wherein said single piece cover comprises a mylar polycarbonate material (col. 3, lines 17-40).

Regarding claims 7, 14 and 20, the prior art Fig. 1 further teaches the soft thermoplastic film has sufficient deflection under external pressure to active said digitizer mechanism.

Regarding claims 8 and 15, the combination of the prior art Fig. 1 and Robsky teaches the single piece cover enclosure (24) for the display mechanism and said digitizer mechanism is constructed with a flat outer top surface free of any indentation (Figs. 1-10 of Robsky, col. 3, lines 17-40, col. 4, lines 13-67).

Regarding claims 10 and 19, the combination of the prior art Fig. 1 and Robsky teaches said single piece cover enclosure is a soft thermoplastic outer film that is coupled to said top film

of said digitizer mechanism that is coupled to the supporting structure (col. 3, lines 17-40 of Robsky).

Regarding claims 13 and 18, the prior art Fig. 1 further teaches the digitizing element of said digitizer mechanism is a resistive type digitizing element.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicants' arguments filed 03/12/2004, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because as follows:

In response to applicants' argument filed "a modification of Applicant's prior art figure 1 as proposed in the outstanding office action, with teachings from the cited Robsky et al. reference, would indeed change a basic principle under which the construction of the device disclosed by Applicant's prior art figure 1 was designed to operate". However, the combination of the prior art figure 1 and Robsky is proper because the prior art figure 1 teaches basic elements of a touch screen includes: a display mechanism, a digitizer mechanism, and a cover for that touch screen. These are well known limitations of a touch panel display. Figure 1 differs from claims invention in that it does not specifically teach the cover for that touch screen is a single piece. However, Robsky teaches a touch screen comprising a single piece cover enclosure (24) for a touch screen assembly that is disposed over and encloses a top film of the digitizer mechanism (28) to allow mechanical transfer between the single piece cover (24) and the digitizer mechanism (28) (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 17-40, col. 4, lines 13-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the single piece cover enclosure for a touch screen assembly as taught by Robsky in

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the system of the prior art Fig. 1 in order to provide a moisture and dust free environment for the touch screen mechanism.

Therefore, it is believe that the limitations of claims 1-20 are still met by the prior art figure 1 and Robsky and the rejection is therefore maintained.

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Jennifer T. Nguyen** whose telephone number is **703-305-3225**. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richard A Hjerpe** can be reach at **703-305-4709**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Washington, DC. 20231

Or faxed to: 703-872-9306 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, sixth-floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

JNguyen
05/18/2004


REGINA LIANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER